Amount Spent on Research in Cardamom

905. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research in respect of cardamom for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the achievements made in increasing production of cardamom;

(c) the present average production per hectare; and

(d) India's position compared with the other cardamom producting countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The amount spent on research and development of cardamom, by the Spices Board, during the last 3 years is as under:-

(Rs. IN LAKHS)

1993-94	90.79
1994-95	117.28
1995-96	130.00

(b) and (c) The details of production and productivity for small and large cardamom during the last 5 years are given below:—

Year	Small cardamom		Large cardamom	
	Production (Tonnes)	Productivity (Kg./Ha.)	Production (Tonnes)	Productivity (Kg./Ha.)
1991-92	80	5000	3400	162
1992-93	70	4250	3550	168
1993-94	108	6600	3725	176
1994-95	113	7000	4100	194
1995-96	128	7900	4702	225

The enhancement in production/productivity of both small and large cardamom is minly due to the research and developmental activities undertaken by the Indian Cardamom Research Instt. under the Speices Board. The other major achievements of the research and development effort include development of high yielding varieties of cardamom; research on vanilla, herbal spices, organic cultivation of cardamom and pepper, vermiculture and development of bio-control for pests and diseases etc.

(d) Apart from India, Guatemala, Papua New Guinea, Honduras and Sri Lanka are producers of small cardamom. Guatemala's production is about 13000 tonnes per annum while the Indian production ranges from 6000 to 7900 tonnes accounting for around 35% of the world production. In the case of large cardamom, Nepal and Bhutan are the other large cardamom producing counties and they together produce about 4000 tonnes per annum while production in India is estimated to be 4000 tonnes per annum.

Import and Export of Cardamom

906. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cardamom imported during 1996-97 so far;

(b) the quantity exported during the last three years including 1996-97;

(c) the incentives given to the exporters to export cardamom;

(d) the reasons for decline in the export of cardamom; and

(e) the incentives for promoting cardamom cultivation, details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The quantity and values of small cardamom imported for the period April 96 to September 96 are as follows:—

	Quantity	Value
Cardamom small	12480 Kg.	Rs. 23.14 lakhs (Source:DGCI&S)

(b) Quantity and value of small cardamom exported during the last 3 years are as under:

	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. crores)
1994-95	257	7.63
1995-96	500	12.40
1996-97(April-Jan)	150	5.47

(c) Some of the incentives given to the exporters to boost the export of cardamom include:—

(i) Exemption of cess on export of cardamom.